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Challenges of Distance-based Road Usage Charging "RUC"

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## The time has come to apply distance-based charging

- The time has come to begin transitioning distance-based RUC in states where it is a mature policy, and for states where it is not mature to do policy development and testing
- Reason to transition: Gas tax revenues are in a state of perpetual decline
- Latest CAFE standards will cause a major (24-60\%) drop in fuel tax revenues by 2025
- Vehicles with new powertrain technologies do not pay gas tax (Electric, plug-in hybrid, LNG, etc.)
- Vehicles with Internal Combustion Engines (ICE) are also becoming more fuel efficient
- The gas tax was always a proxy for road usage. New technologies are eroding its quality as a proxy, while other new technologies are removing the administrative and cost barriers to collecting RUC

All Future Scenarios - Revenue Declines in Oregon
It doesn't matter which future scenario occurs; fuel taxes will continue to decline in the years ahead due to fleet efficiency = ICEs, Alternate Fuels, Hybrids, Plug-in Hybrids \& Electric Vehicles


Source: ODOT OIPP RUCPP Report on Fleet Forecast based on the GreenStep model results, February 2013
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The debate on Road Usage Charging is typically NOT a debate whether the technology exists to enable it.

Most Decision Makers and the Public perceive that the technology exists and the technology is capable of enabling a road usage charging system.

## In the policy world, perception is reality!

Repeating Themes against distance-based charging

Too complicated and expensive to operate;

- Inequitable to rural drivers;
- Technology invades privacy of the driver; and
- No business case for it.


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## Financial / Operational Cost Model

Annual operational costs per $\$ 156$ million revenue $=$ $\$ 10$ million (sum of all salaries and direct costs plus $50 \%$ contingency) $=6.7 \%$ of revenues.

| Number of RUC accounts | Administration costs as a \% of <br> revenues |  |
| ---: | ---: | :---: |
| 10,000 | \begin{tabular}{r\|r|}
\hline
\end{tabular} |  |
| 100,000 | $12 \%$ |  |
| 500,000 | $5.2 \%$ |  |
| $1,000,000$ | $4.6 \%$ |  |
| $4,000,000$ | $3.3 \%$ |  |

## Repeating Themes against distance-based charging

- Too complicated and expensive to-operate; Inequitable to rural drivers;
- Technology invades privacy of the driver; and
- No business case for it.


## Equity of a road usage charging system



Source: GAO Report GAO-13-77 Pilot Program Could Help Determine the Viability of Mileage Fees for Certain Vehicles, December 2012

## Urban and Rural Road Usage Charge Impacts Average Self-reported Trip Distances (Miles)



- Rural residents tend to drive longer distances for all trips including medical appointments, shopping, and school


## Urban and Rural Road Usage Charge Impacts Self-reported Distance Driven Annually (Miles)

| County <br> Type | Total miles <br> driven (A) | Miles off <br> road (B) | Total on- <br> road miles <br> $(\mathbf{C = B}-\mathbf{A})$ | Miles driven <br> out-of-state <br> (D) | Total miles on <br> Oregon public <br> roads (C - D) |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Urban | 12,843 | 721 | 12,122 | 765 | 11,357 |
| Mixed | 13,865 | 1,077 | 12,788 | 1,495 | 11,293 |
| Rural | 12,511 | 1,090 | 11,421 | 1,939 | 9,482 |

- The difference in miles driven among urban, mixqd, and rural counties is not substantially different.
- Rural motorists drive more off-road and out-of-state miles than other motorists. This holds true for "border" and "non-border" counties.
- These figures are self reported but nevertheless illuminate individuals' collective impressions of their own situations


## Repeating Themes against distance-based charging

- Too complicated and expensive to operate;
- Inequitable to rural drivers

Technology invades privacy of the driver; and

- No business case for it.


## "User Choice"

## Road Usage Charge



## Minnesota Public Opinion on "Solutions"



## Minnesota Public Opinion on "Features"

| Why do you prefer this approach? |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| High Tech (K) pase=146 |  | Low Tech (S) base=423 |  |
| Convenience (NET) | 39\% | Less invasive/more private (NET) | 49\% |
| Simple/Accurate | 31\% | Don't like GPS/Gov't monitoring | 31\% |
| Fairness (NET) | 21\% | Costs (NET) | 23\% |
| Road maintenance paid by user | 11\% | Lower administrative costs | 18\% |
| Collection method (NET) | 20\% | Convenience (NET) | 19\% |
| Like the GPS idea | 11\% | Simple/Accurate | 18\% |
| Base for fees (NET) | 18\% | Base for fees (NET) | 16\% |
| Based on time of day | 7\% | Not based on time of day | 8\% |
| Based on type of road driven | 6\% | Based on mileage driven | 4\% |
| Enforcement issues (NET) | 9\% | Collection method (NET) | 12\% |
| Costs (NET) | 4\% | Fairness (NET) | 7\% |
|  |  | Enforcement issues (NET) | 3\% |

Source: The Dieringer Research Group Inc. for Minnesota Department of Transportation, June-July 2009

## Repeating Themes against distance-based charging

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- Technology invades privacy of the driver; and

No business case for it.

## Summary Statistics for Oregon Legislative Pilot Test

Statistic
Nov. 2012

Dec. 2012
Jan. 2013
Feb 2013
Total

| Transactions | 1,402 | 2,787 | 2,867 | 1,180 | 8,236 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Total Miles | $32,908.9$ | $71,059.0$ | $79,663.8$ | $49,918.9$ | $233,550.6$ |
| Oregon Miles | $31,478.4$ | $35,346.4$ | $35,671.0$ | $25,842.4$ | $128,538.2$ |
| Nevada Miles | $1,430.5$ | $18,663.2$ | $26,366.4$ | $24,076.5$ | $70,536.6$ |
| Washington Miles | 0 | $17,049.4$ | $17,626.4$ | 0 | $34,675.8$ |
| Gross Tax | $\$ 479.71$ | $\mathbf{\$ 5 4 2 . 5 1}$ | $\mathbf{\$ 1 1 7 6 . 6 4}$ | $\mathbf{\$ 6 4 2 . 7 7}$ | $\mathbf{\$ 2 , 8 4 1 . 6 3}$ |
| OR Fuel Tax Credit | $-\$ 371.16$ | $-\$ 316.65$ | $\mathbf{\$ 9 8 5 . 7 9}$ | $\mathbf{- \$ 4 9 2 . 2 4}$ | $-2,165.84$ |
| Net Tax | $\mathbf{\$ 1 0 8 . 5 5}$ | $\mathbf{\$ 2 2 5 . 8 6}$ | $\mathbf{\$ 1 9 0 . 8 5}$ | $\mathbf{\$ 1 5 0 . 5 3}$ | $\mathbf{\$ 6 7 5 . 7 9}$ |
| Increased Revenue | $\mathbf{+ 2 9 \%}$ | $+\mathbf{7 1 \%}$ | $\mathbf{+ 1 9 \%}$ | $\mathbf{+ 3 1 \%}$ | $\mathbf{+ 3 1 \%}$ |

Note: Revenues based on per mile rate of $1.56 \phi$ in Oregon; $1.87 \phi$ in Washington and $1.19 \phi$ in Nevada

## Effect of Improving Fuel Efficiency When State Fuel Tax and VMT Are Held Constant

## Oregon

1 million auto and light truck VMT $\div 21.8 \mathrm{mpg}$
= 45,872 gallons of gasoline
$\times 30$ C Oregon State fuel tax
$=\$ 13,761$ in nominal revenues

## Est. 2016 CAFÉ Standard

1 million auto and light truck VMT $\div 34.5 \mathrm{mpg}$ (average)
$=28,986$ gallons of gasoline
$\times 30$ C Oregon State fuel tax
$=\$ 8,696$ in nominal revenues

## Est. 2025 CAFE Standard

1 million auto and light truck VMT
$\div 54.5 \mathrm{mpg}$ (average)
$=18,349$ gallons of gasoline
$\times 30$ C Oregon State fuel tax
= \$5,505 in nominal revenues


## Gallons Consumed



# Simplified Business Case based on Statistics for Pilot At the 2016 CAFE Fleet Standards (37\%) 

Statistic
Nov. 2012
Dec. 2012 Jan. 2013 Feb 2013
Total

| Transactions | 1,402 | 2,787 | 2,867 | 1,180 | 8,236 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Total Miles | $32,908.9$ | $71,059.0$ | $79,663.8$ | $49,918.9$ | $233,550.6$ |
| Oregon Miles | $31,478.4$ | $35,346.4$ | $35,671.0$ | $25,842.4$ | $128,538.2$ |
| Nevada Miles | $1,430.5$ | $18,663.2$ | $26,366.4$ | $24,076.5$ | $70,536.6$ |
| Washington Miles | 0 | $17,049.4$ | $17,626.4$ | 0 | $34,675.8$ |
| Gross Tax | $\$ 479.71$ | $\$ 542.51$ | $\mathbf{\$ 1 1 7 6 . 6 4}$ | $\mathbf{\$ 6 4 2 . 7 7}$ | $\mathbf{\$ 2 , 8 4 1 . 6 3}$ |
| OR Fuel Tax Credit | $\mathbf{- \$ 2 3 3 . 8 3}$ | $\mathbf{- \$ 1 9 9 . 4 9}$ | $\mathbf{- \$ 6 2 1 . 0 5}$ | $\mathbf{- \$ 3 1 0 . 1 1}$ | $\mathbf{- \$ 1 , 3 6 4 . 4 8}$ |
| Net Tax | $\$ 245.88$ | $\mathbf{\$ 3 4 3 . 0 2}$ | $\mathbf{\$ 5 5 5 . 5 9}$ | $\mathbf{\$ 3 3 2 . 6 6}$ | $\mathbf{\$ 1 , 4 7 7 . 1 5}$ |
| Increased Revenue | $\mathbf{+ 1 0 5 \%}$ | $\mathbf{+ 1 7 2 \%}$ | $\mathbf{+ 8 9 \%}$ | $\mathbf{+ 1 0 7 \%}$ | $\mathbf{+ 1 0 8 \%}$ |

Note: Revenues based on per mile rate of $1.56 \phi$ in Oregon; $1.87 \phi$ in Washington and $1.19 \phi$ in Nevada.

Source: DCL Analysis based on data taken from the Preliminary Findings Report on the Oregon Legislative Pilot Test, February 2013

# Simplified Business Case based on Statistics for Pilot At the 2025 CAFE Fleet Standards (60\%) 

Statistic
Nov. 2012
Dec. 2012 Jan. 2013 Feb 2013
Total

| Transactions | 1,402 | 2,787 | 2,867 | 1,180 | 8,236 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Total Miles | $32,908.9$ | $71,059.0$ | $79,663.8$ | $49,918.9$ | $233,550.6$ |
| Oregon Miles | $31,478.4$ | $35,346.4$ | $35,671.0$ | $25,842.4$ | $128,538.2$ |
| Nevada Miles | $1,430.5$ | $18,663.2$ | $26,366.4$ | $24,076.5$ | $70,536.6$ |
| Washington Miles | 0 | $17,049.4$ | $17,626.4$ | 0 | $34,675.8$ |
| Gross Tax | $\$ 479.71$ | $\mathbf{\$ 5 4 2 . 5 1}$ | $\mathbf{\$ 1 1 7 6 . 6 4}$ | $\mathbf{\$ 6 4 2 . 7 7}$ | $\mathbf{\$ 2 , 8 4 1 . 6 3}$ |
| OR Fuel Tax Credit | $\mathbf{- \$ 1 4 8 . 4 6}$ | $\mathbf{- \$ 1 2 6 . 6 6}$ | $\mathbf{- \$ 3 9 4 . 3 2}$ | $\mathbf{- \$ 1 9 6 . 9 0}$ | $\mathbf{-} \mathbf{\$ 8 6 6 . 3 4}$ |
| Net Tax | $\mathbf{\$ 3 3 1 . 2 5}$ | $\mathbf{\$ 4 1 5 . 8 5}$ | $\mathbf{\$ 7 8 2 . 3 2}$ | $\mathbf{\$ 4 4 5 . 8 7}$ | $\mathbf{\$ 1 , 9 7 5 . 2 9}$ |
| Increased Revenue | $\mathbf{+ 2 2 3 \%}$ | $\mathbf{+ 3 2 8 \%}$ | $\mathbf{+ 1 9 8 \%}$ | $\mathbf{+ 2 2 6 \%}$ | $\mathbf{+ 2 8 8 \%}$ |

Note: Revenues based on per mile rate of $1.56 \phi$ in Oregon; $1.87 \phi$ in Washington and $1.19 \phi$ in Nevada.

Source: DCL Analysis based on data taken from the Preliminary Findings Report on the Oregon Legislative Pilot Test, February 2013

# Simplified Business Case based on Statistics for Pilot At a conservative mid-Point (41\%) 

Statistic.
Nov. 2012 Dec. 2012 Jan. 2013 Feb 2013
Total

| Transactions | 1,402 | 2,787 | 2,867 | 1,180 | 8,236 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Total Miles | $32,908.9$ | $71,059.0$ | $79,663.8$ | $49,918.9$ | $233,550.6$ |
| Oregon Miles | $31,478.4$ | $35,346.4$ | $35,671.0$ | $25,842.4$ | $128,538.2$ |
| Nevada Miles | $1,430.5$ | $18,663.2$ | $26,366.4$ | $24,076.5$ | $70,536.6$ |
| Washington Miles | 0 | $17,049.4$ | $17,626.4$ | 0 | $34,675.8$ |
| Gross Tax | $\$ 479.71$ | $\$ 542.51$ | $\mathbf{\$ 1 1 7 6 . 6 4}$ | $\mathbf{\$ 6 4 2 . 7 7}$ | $\mathbf{\$ 2 , 8 4 1 . 6 3}$ |
| OR Fuel Tax Credit | $\mathbf{- \$ 2 1 8 . 9 8}$ | $\mathbf{- \$ 1 8 6 . 8 2}$ | $\mathbf{- \$ 5 8 1 . 6 2}$ | $\mathbf{- \$ 2 9 0 . 4 2}$ | $\mathbf{- \$ 1 , 2 7 7 . 8 5}$ |
| Net Tax | $\$ 260.73$ | $\mathbf{\$ 3 5 5 . 6 9}$ | $\mathbf{\$ 5 9 5 . 0 2}$ | $\mathbf{\$ 3 5 2 . 3 5}$ | $\mathbf{\$ 1 5 6 3 . 7 8}$ |
| Increased Revenue | $\mathbf{+ 1 1 9 \%}$ | $\mathbf{+ 1 9 0 \%}$ | $\mathbf{+ 1 0 2 \%}$ | $\mathbf{+ 1 2 1 \%}$ | $\mathbf{+ 1 2 2 \%}$ |

Note: Revenues based on per mile rate of $1.56 \phi$ in Oregon; $1.87 \phi$ in Washington and $1.19 \phi$ in Nevada.

Source: DCL Analysis based on data taken from the Preliminary Findings Report on the Oregon Legislative Pilot Test, February 2013

## Road Usage Charging Advantages

- Sustainable revenue source-resilient to increasing fuel efficiency
- More proportionate to roadway usage and damage
- Allows collection by private industry in an open system model that provides lower administrative costs
- Fulfills the user-pays principle
- Is more equitable horizontally and vertically
- There are solid responses to the main arguments against distancebased charging
- Too expensive to operate
- Inequitable to rural drivers
- Technology invades privacy
- No Business Case


## It's NOT about the Technology!



